

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 650

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0386

DEPARTMENT PASS AID

NAIROBI FOR REDSO/ EA

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID OGEN SO US

SUBJ: AMELCO' S PROBLEMS

REF: MOGADISCIO 382

1. AMELCO' S LATEST PROBLEMS WITH SOMALI AUTHORITIES ARE DIFFICULT TO SORT OUT. MOREOVER, AS IN PAST, EMBASSY BROUGHT IN AT ELEVENTH HOUR WITH ONLY LIMITED KNOWLEDGE OF BACKGROUND.

2. IT APPEARS, HOWEVER, THAT BOLLINGER' S PROBLEMS HAVE STEMMED PRIMARILY FROM: (A) LABOR CLAIMS AGAINST COMPANY, (B) POSSIBILITY OF TAX LIABILITY, AND (C) NON- PAYMENT OF BILLS.

3. ON LABOR CLAIMS, SOME FORMER EMPLOYEES, WHOSE CLAIMS AGAINST AMELCO DISMISSED BY GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE, HAVE APPEALED TO REGIONAL COURT THROUGH SUITS AGAINST AMELCO MANAGEMENT. NOT SATISFIED THAT BOLLINGER LEAVING BEHIND ANY AMELCO REPRESENTATIVE FULLY EMPOWERED TO COMPLY WITH COURT JUDGMENTS, PRESIDENT OF COURT ARRANGED FOR IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES TO HOLD UP BOLLINGER' S DEPARTURE PENDING DECISION ON CASES NOW IN LITIGATION. THIS IS MOST DIFFICULT AND ONLY (TO OUR KNOWLEDGE) REMAINING PROBLEM, CONFIDENTIAL

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WHICH WDA ALI HASHI AND AMELCO LAWYER NOW TRYING RESOLVE.

4. QUESTION OF BOLLINGER' S PERSONAL TAX LIABILITY, WHICH INITIALLY CONSTITUTED ANOTHER ISSUE FOR IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES, WAS LEFT TO ALMOST LAST MOMENT BUT WAS RESOLVED THROUGH PERSONAL EFFORTS OF MINISTER WATER RESOURCES WITH MINISTER FINANCE.

5. AMELCO' S CREDITORS (LANDLORD, ETC.) ALSO DESCENDED ON BOLLINGER AND IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES TO ADD TO CONFUSION OF AIRPORT SCENE YESTERDAY. NOW THAT EMBASSY HAS FINALLY RECEIVED AND DELIVERED CHECK TO WDA (REFTEL), LATTER WILL IMMEDIATELY PAY AMOUNT TO AMELCO' S LOCAL BANK ACCOUNT WHICH SHOULD THEN BE SUFFICIENT TO COVER OUTSTANDING INDEBTEDNESS.

6. COMMENT: AMELCO' S PROBLEMS HAVE PROBABLY BEEN AGGRAVATED BY OVERDRAWN BANK ACCOUNT, BY PROJECT MANAGER STEIFF' S PREMATURE AND UNANNOUNCED DEPARTURE (WHICH TENDED TO MAKE IT LOOK AS IF ALL THE AMELCO OFFICERS WERE SKIPPING OUT BEFORE TYING REMAINING LOOSE ENDS), BY APPARENT DELAYS IN ARRANGING CLEARANCE FOR BOLLINGER' S DEPARTURE, AND BY SOME LACK OF COMMUNICATION. THERE WELL MAY ALSO BE ELEMENT OF SOMALI HARASSMENT OF AMERICAN COMPANY PARTLY AS RESULT RESENTMENT AND POLITICAL CONNECTIONS OF FORMER AMELCO EMPLOYEE. HOWEVER, AS FAR AS EMBASSY CAN DETERMINE IN ADMITTEDLY MURKY SITUATION, ALI HASHI OF WATER DEVELOPMENT AGENCY AND SECRETARY OF WATER RESOURCES BURALE (PRINCIPAL SOMALI AUTHORITIES INVOLVED WITH AMELOC) HAVE BEEN UPSET BY LATEST DEVELOPMENT AND ARE DOING THEIR BEST TO GET BOLLINGER' S PROBLEMS RESOLVED. ALSO OF INTEREST IS FACT PRESIDENT SIAD RECENTLY REBUKED SOMALI JUDICIARY FOR ITS HANDLING OF STEIFF CASE.

7. PARSONS REP BERGES CAN UNDOUBTEDLY PROVIDE REDSO WITH MUCH FULLER INSIGHTS.
LOORAM

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